SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1900.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid DAILY, per Month..... SUNDAY, per Year. DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year..... DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month..... Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

Paris-Riosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevarde des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, the must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Mediation.

A few day ago, in the interests of peace THE SUN commended to the attention of the two belligerents in South Africa, the following passage in the message which President McKinley had addressed to the American Congress after hostilities had begun:

"This Government has maintained an attitude of neutrality in the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer States of Africa. We have remained faithful to the precept of avoiding entangling alliances as to affairs not of our direct concern Had circumstance suggested that the parties to the quarrel would have welcomed any kindly expression of the hope of the American people that war might he avoided, good offices would have been gladly tendered."

This will be timely reading at every attempt to make political capital at Republican expense out of this Government's sedulous avoidance of rushing in as a mediator, without invitation or intimation that our offer would be welcome. In it Mr. McKin-LEY, so far as was consistent with the neutrality that he, as President of the United States, was bound rigidly to observe, expressed the American aversion to the war and the longing to see it closed before an African republic's independence should be conquered by a European monarchy, even though the latter during the Spanish war had been friendly to the United States.

Yesterday THE SUN published a portion of the declaration of The Hague Conference, yet to be ratified by the Senate, which strengthens the reason why the policy already announced by the Administration should be maintained:

"Nothing contained in this convention shall be so construed as to require the United States of America to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon, interfering with, or entangling itself in the political questions of policy or internal administration of any foreign State nor shall anything contained in the said conby the United States of America of its fraditional attitude toward purely American questions.

This, the Monroe doctrine, is found in the convention recently undertaken by the civilized nations of the world, not, it is true, as a rule possessing the force of treaty. but as an international theory formulated at The Hague and placed upon the running record of the conclusions of the conference without objection. The time for mediation will be when both of the belligerents ask for it, not before.

Cotton.

Events of exceeding consequence to the American business world are now taking place in the market for raw cotton.

Early last December we called attention to the fact that one of the chief influences adverse to the prosperity of the country was the enormous diminution in our exports of cotton. At that time there had been a decrease in these exports, as compared with the previous year, of nearly 1,300,000 bales, representing a money value of about \$40,000,000. The troublesome part of it was that at the time a stringency prevailed in the money markets, not only in New York but in all the great capitals of Europe. Relying upon the ordinary exportation of cotton at the usual time, our bankers and dealers in exchange in the early fall had sold ahead a large quantity of sterling exchange, expecting to make their sales good, or as the market term is, "cover" them, later in the year. When the cotton bills came to hand. But the cotton bills did not come to hand, and the sales of exchange had to be covered at a loss, or at least at a higher rate than was expected. Our customary credit balance in London was wanting, and the transfer of gold from this country to Europe ensued at a particularly unpleasant time.

The cause of the decreased exportation of cotton, as we then pointed out, was a great difference of opinion between the American growers of the staple and the foreign buyers of it. The latter, trusting largely to the estimate of Mr. HENRY NEILL, believed that a crop as large as the previous one (in round numbers about 11,000,000 bales) had been grov n, and that the advance in the price of cotton was due simply to speculation. The Southern planters, however, maintained that the crop was very much less than that of last year and that the price established, so far from being improperly high, was much too low. On the other hand, again, it was known that the interior stocks of cotton were large, and this lent some plausibility to the declaration of the foreigners that cotton was being held in this country for higher prices and that it would "come out" in great quantities when the effort to hold it failed. There was, therefore, a deadlock between these two contending interests, and time alone could prove whose claims were better founded, and which side would win in the struggle.

The day has now come when it can be stated definitely that the battle of the Southern planters and of the American cotton trade against the foreign spinners has been fought and won, and that the only thing remaining to do is to settle the terms of the capitulation. Five months of the cotton year have elapsed. Despite the fact that cotton has advanced in price nearly three-quarters of a cent a pound since December, and has scored a rise altogether of nearly three cents a pound from the low prices of last season, with all the weather conditions of the winter facilitating in an inordinate degree the marketing and transportation of the staple, the total amount of the American crop now in sight is but 6,823,130 bales, as against 8,904,370 bales at the same time last year. It is as certain as anything can be that the cotton crop of the present season, so far from amounting to another 11,000,000 bales, is, approximately, only about 9,000, 000 bales, and the estimates of the cotton trade now vary between 500,000 bales

above this figure and 500,000 below it. At this advanced period of the cottou season, in nine years out of ten, three-quarters of the cotton crop is in sight. If the rule holds good the entire cotton crop of the year will be but 8.800,000 bales. Up to within a very recent period the English spinners maintained their attitude of scepticism regarding the shortness of the American crop. The total amount of our exports of raw cetton is now nearly 2,000,000 bales less ;

than last season, and by far the greater portion of this, of course, is due to lessened purchases by Great Britain. The English reserve supplies of cotton are now at the lowest point reached for many years, being but 671,000 bales, as against 1,760,000 at the same date in 1899, 1,054,000 in 1898, and 1,304,000 in 1897. This is pretty near the danger point of the English reserves, and the figures given illustrate how large has been the English consumption of cotton during the period of contest. In fact, the English cotton trade in 1809 was the best in its history, and all the English authorities agree that the outlook for it was never brighter than in the present year. In addition to the strength of the statistical position as given, the Indian crop of cotton has proved a failure, while the Egyptian crop, though comparatively large, has been absorbed by the unusually great demand for it, and the stocks of Egyptian cotton are now about 500,000 cantars, or 100,000 bales less than last year The Egyptian crop is, however, peculiar and is used only in certain specialized manufactures. Its price is comparatively unaffected by that of the other kinds of cot

ton in the world. The bearing of all this upon the pros perity of our own country is obvious. The English spinners must now come into our markets and buy cotton, as, in fact, they have already begun to do; and while they will still buy as little as they can, they will have to pay a much higher price than they might have paid. Put in plain words, they must pay us during the coming spring a sum of money which may be estimated conservatively at \$25,000,000, which, under ordinary circumstances, they should have paid us last fall. This will go far toward giving us the whip hand in the market for foreign exchange. Moreover, inasmuch as the world's reserve stocks of cotton have gone into consumption, as has been indicated their weight will no longer rest upon the price of cotton in the coming season, and it is fair to assume that the present range of values will remain steady for at least one year to come. If, in addition to all this, the planting for the next year's crop, now not very far away, should be attended with unfavorable climatic conditions, and it should otherwise become probable that another short crop of cotton was to be raised, sensational prices for the staple would occur. But this is, of course, a mere speculative possibility, concerning which nothing can be foreseen.

the American cotton trade.

The Confusion in Kentucky.

Riches and congratulations now attend

There appears to be no doubt that the final power of deciding an election contest for Governor in Kentucky is vested in the Legislature of that Commonwealth

The Constitution of Kentucky contains this provision on the subject:

"Contested elections for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be determined by both houses of the General Assembly, according to such regulations a may be established by law."

Under the power thus conferred upon it to regulate the proceedings to determine such contests, the Kentucky Legislature enacted the so-called Goebel law. This provides for an investigation by a Legislative committee whose action, however, shall not be final "but shall be reported to the two Houses of the General Assembly for the further action of the General Assembly And the General Assembly shall then de termine such contest.'

If the Houses may lawfully meet in joint session to make the decision, the Legislature would undoubtedly declare Gouber elected, as his adherents outnumber the Republicans consent to unseat TAYLOR.

have expressed the opinion that the Legislature possesses no Constitutional authority whatever to act upon the election contest in joint session.

Governor TAYLOR, however, v as evidently apprehensive that it would endeavor to do so, irrespective of any prohibition in the State Constitution; and he prevented any meeting of the Legislature at all at Frankfort at the present time by declaring that a state of insurrection prevailed in that city, and adjourning the General Assembly to another place of meeting in the future.

This was done under the sanction of a provision of the Constitution, which directs that the sessions of the General Assembly 'shall be held at the sear of government. except in case of war, insurrection or pestilence, when it may, by proclamation of the Governor, assemble for the time being, elsewhere."

The Governor having proclaimed the existence of an insurrection at Frankfort, we do not see why the direction for the L gislature to assemble elsewhere was not a strictly Constitutional mandate in form; and the subsequent attempt of the Democratic members to pass upon the election contest and declare Goebel elected when the Legislature was not really in session anywhere cannot have had any legal effect to bring about the result desired and intended. We can discover no plausible legal argument in the admitted facts of the case for questioning the present authority of TAYLOR to act as the Governor of Kentucky.

The propriety of his proclaiming Frankfort to be in a state of insurrection is quite another question. "The Governor and all civil officers shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanors in office." There can be no doubt that Governor TAYLOR would be liable to prosecution under this provision of the Constitution of Kentucky if it could be made to appear that there really was no insurrection in Frankfort when he issued his proclamation, and that he knew there was none. But the fact that he might be impeached for wilfully making a false proclamation did not deprive that proclamation of its Constitutional effect, which was to transfer the legal meeting place of the Legislature from Frankfort to London. After its issue the proceedings of the Democratic members in Frankfort were not even in conformity with any of the forms

At this distance and without familiarity with the course of legislation and judicial decision on such questions in Kentucky, we believe that Governor TAYLOR exceeded his authority in preventing the Legislature from meeting at Frankfort on the ground that an insurrection had broken out at the capital. Was not the insurrection at that time largely imaginary? Could not a secsion of the Legislature have been held there in perfect safety and good order?

If Governor TAYLOR and his friends are right in the view that the Houses of the was dead, so far as English Noncou-General Assembly cannot lawfully decide the election contest in joint session, they

would have the courts on their side in proceedings to invalidate any such adverse joint action; and their position before the country would be much better than it has been made by what appears to have been an abuse of power in banishing the Legislature from the capital of the Commonwealth.

New War Material.

The war in South Africa illustrates how modern war draws on all branches of science and manufacture for its material. Among the new forms of material required for the war we have, first, a siege train, that is, a special train, with locomotive, cars and rails, for the transportation of the siege

guns and carriages. The order for such a train, composed of 2 narrow-gauge locomotives, 24 twowheeled wagons, 15 bogie wagons, 2 bogie brake wagons and 5 miles of straight and 1 mile curved railway, was given to a London firm on November 18, and by November 22 the greater part of the work was passed by the War Office. All was completed within ten working days.

Another new form of war material is the permanent steel bridge spans, intended to replace the bridges over the Tugela River at Colenso and at Frere, which had been destroyed by the Boers. Although ordered by the Natal Government, they are evidently a war measure. The order for seven 105-feet spans was given on December 21, and the company undertook to deliver the first span in six weeks: it was actually completed in nineteen working days. The spans are made of Siemens-Martin steel, are 16 feet wide and are intended to accommodate one line of 3 feet 6 inches gauge, with space for pedestrians or horse traffle.

The third form of new material for the war is balloons furnished with wireless telegraphy apparatus. It is well known that WHITE had a balloon section in Ladysmith, which continued to be used up to the end of November: Lord METHUEN's command also had a balloon, which was used for a short time at Magersfontein on the 10th and 11th of December, but could not be used on the 15th on account of the wind, a fact which illustrates the great objection to the spherical balloon, and emphasizes the necessity for a balloon which will stand the wind, as it is claimed the German military dragon balloon will. It appears that ten balloons have been shipped to Cape Colony, and as many to Natal, all furnished with wireless telegraph apparatus. The balloons for carrying up high the fine wire of the receiving apparatus are comparatively small, and can accommodate but one man. The distance to which this apparatus has been successfully used is about forty miles, consequently it would have been easy by its means to establish communication between Estcourt and Ladysmith. Capt. KENNEDY, who has charge of this work, sailed from Southampton for Durban at the end of October.

The personnel of the two balloon sections sent with the army corps comprised sixtyeight officers and men and twenty horses, the material being transported on one balloon wagon, one material wagon and four gas wagons.

The Reconsolidation of the Home Rule Party.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. One outcome of the war in South Africa has been to effect what earnest negotiations, prolonged for upward of nine years, have failed to accomplish, to wit: the reunion of the Irish Nationalist party, which was split into fragments in December, 1890, and which has been since disqualified, by make is to do all the good he can in the direction on joint ballot. On the other hand, if each the weakness bred of discord, from render-clearly indicated by his own talents and experience. branch of the General Assembly may act by ing any substantial service to the Home The place where Mr. Parnell can render service to itself, according to the ordinary method of | Rule cause. Just before the opening of the legislative procedure, the Republicans are session of Parliament on Jan. 30, Irish hopeful that the State Senate would not | members, representing not only the Parnellites but both sections of the Anti-Par-Able lawyers in Kentucky, including such | nellites, met and unanimously passed a resoa Democratic leader as Senator LINDSAY, | lution that the Irish Nationalist party should be reconstructed on the lines laid down by Mr. PARNELL in 1885-90, lines which should ical parties and confine Nationalist efforts to the single aim of securing a measure of Home Rule at least as wide as was embodied in the bills of 1886 and 1893. Mr. JOHN E. REDMOND, Mr. JOHN DILLON and Mr. TIMOTHY HEALY were present at the meeting. The latter moved that three whips be elected for the reunited party, and it is understood that Mr. REDMOND will

be its first Parliamentary chairman. Now that the long breach in the Nationalist ranks has been repaired, it may be interesting to recall the circumstances under which the schism took place. A review of the facts will show that the deposition of Mr. Parnell was due to Mr. Gladstone's demand, a demand which, undoubtedly, could be justified on moral grounds, but which, as events have shown, was a grave political mistake. The resultant rupture of the Irish Nationalist party, the bitter contest of the two factions at the ballot box and the conspicuous part which the Catholic hierarchy and clergy felt constrained to take on behalf of the Anti-Parnellites, shook the belief of British Liberals in the competence of Irishmen for self-government, alienated the English Nonconformists whom Mr. GLADSTONE had sought to propitiate, and prevented the Liberal chief from gaining in the general election of 1892 a majority sufficient to overawe the House of Lords. To dissuade the Peers from throwing out his second Home Rule bill and compelling a new appeal to the electors, Mr. GLADSTONE needed to pass that measure by a majority of at least a hundred; as it turned out, he was unable, even with the help of both Nationalist factions, to secure a majority of more than forty. The latter majority he could have secured, and he did secure. against the wishes of the English Nonconformists, who, as the event proved, were much more deeply shocked at the revelation of the political power possessed by the Catholic Church in Ireland than they had been by the moral lapse of which Mr. PAR-NELL was convicted in connection with the O'Shea divorce case. The result might have been predicted by those who remembered the course pursued by the Nonconformists in 1688. At that date, and for some time previously, James II. had been a man of irreproachable morality, but he was an avowed Catholic. On the other hand, WILLIAM of Orange, who became presently WILLIAM III. of England, brought a Dutch mistress with him and openly installed her in London. Nevertheess, he was the champion of Protestantism in Europe, and, as such, he was acclaimed with fervor by Anglicans and Nonconformists alike. From the moment that the control of the dominant faction in the Nationalist party passed from PARNELL. who was a Protestant, to the Roman Cath-

formists could destroy it. This result of PARNELL's deposition from

olic Church, the cause of Home Rule

the leadership was, from the outset foreseen by some astute Conservative onlookers, and it was feared by many Irish Nationalists, who, in the end, cast their lot with the Anti-Parnellite faction. A few data will show how exclusively the schism in the Home Rule party was due to Mr. GLADSTONE'S interposition. It was on Monday, Nov. 17, 1890, that a decree nisi for the divorce of Captain and Mrs. O'SHEA, on the ground of the latter's misconduct with Mr. PARNELL, was made. On the very next day there was a meeting of the Irish National League in Dublin, and a resolution pledging the meeting to stand by PARNELL, notwithstanding the proceedings in the divorce court, was carried by acclamation. On Nov. 19 Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR, Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN and Mr. JOHN DILLON were interviewed in the United States, whither they had gone to raise funds for the Nationalist cause, and all three proclaimed their unfaltering allegiance to their chief. "I can see nothing," said Mr. DILLON, "in what has occurred to alter the leadership of the Irish party in the House of Commons. A change would be a disaster." Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said: "Speaking as an individual, I will stand firmly by PAR-NELL and there is no reason why I should not." With them Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR concurred: "Mr. PARNELL is the greatest Parliamentary leader that the Irish party ever had. His disappearance from that post would create dismay among the Irish Nationalists." On the same day, Nov. 19, Mr. LABOUCHERE, the well-known British Radical, declared that it was not for the English to decide who the Irish leader should be: "This concerns the Irish alone. My advice to Mr. PARNELL is that he should not be diverted from the task that he has set himself, to free his people, by anything that

has occurred or may occur." On Thursday, Nov. 20, there was a great meeting of Irish Nationalists in the Leinster Hall, Dublin; Mr. TIMOTHY HEALY and Mr. JUSTIN McCarthy were present. The latter proposed the following resolution, which was carried by acclamation:

"That this meeting, interpreting the sentiment of the Irish people that no side issue shall be permitted to obstruct the progress of the great cause of Home Rule for Ireland, declares that, in all political matters, Mr. PARNELL possesses the confidence of the Irish nation, and that this meeting rejoices at the determination of the Irish Parliamentary party to stand by their leader."

Speaking to this resolution, Mr. McCar-THY said:

"I ask you, suppose a man has gone morally wrong in some personal relation, is it the least reason why he should fail in his duty to lead his people in some great question of national and public importance? Can we say to that man: 'We can do without you?' We know we cannot say it: we cannot possibly say it. We shall say to him; 'We recognize no reason duty of leading the Irish party and the Irish people to a public victory,'

Mr. HEALY followed:

"I would say this further, that we must remember that, for Ireland and for Irishmen, Mr. PARNELL is less a man than an institution. We have under the shadow of his name secured for Ireland a power and an authority in the councils of Great Britain and the world such as we never possessed before; and, when I see a demand made for his retirement and resignation. I ask you to remember the futility thereof. Were Mr. PARSELL to-morrow to resign 1 is seat for Cork, he would instantly be reelected. I say we should be foolish and criminal, if we, the seaoned politicians who have been able to watch the vagaries and tempests of political passages, if we, pon an occasion of this kind, at the very first blast of opposition, surrendered the great chief who has

On Nov. 22 Mr. Jacob Bright wrote to

the Manchester Guardian "You appear to recommend that Mr. PARNELL should retire for a time from public life. I take a different view. I think it is his duty to remain at his post. If a man commits a grave fault, the best atonement he can his own country and ours is in the House of Com-

On Nov. 24 Mr. ILLINGWORTH addressed a public meeting in Bradford. He said:

Mr. PARNELL has rendered great service to the passengers of a vessel from America which had been skilfully manosuvred through many dangers and assure independence of all British polit- navigated through many storms depose the captain the voyage that the captain had been guilty of a

Amid this chorus of friendly opinion some jarring notes were struck, conspicuously by the Rev. HUGH PRICE HUGHES in the Methodist Times, and by Mr. STEAD in | in the company would do the same. the Pall Mall Gazette. Both took their stand on the moral question, and said in effect, "Mr. PARNELL must go." On Sunday, Nov. 23, the Rev. HUGH PRICE HUGHES asserted at a gathering at St. James's Hall: "I have high authority for saying that Mr. GLAD-STONE will intervene, and that Mr. PARNELL will recognize his voice as one to be obeyed." On the next day, which was the day before the meeting of Pacliament, Mr. GLADSTONE came to London and wrote his famous letter to Mr. JOHN MORLEY. He announced in this fateful document that he had arrived at the conviction that "notwithstanding the splendid services rendered by Mr. PARNELL to his country, his continuance at the present moment in the leadership [of the Irish Nationalist party] would be productive of consequences disastrous the highest degree to the cause of Ireland." He added that "the continuance I speak of would render my retention of the leadership of the Liberal party, based, as it has been mainly, upon the presentation of the Irish cause, almost a nullity." While Mr. MORLEY was in search of PARNELL to show him Mr. GLADSTONE'S manifesto, the Irish Nationalist members met on the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 25. at Committee Room 15 in the House of Commons, to elect a sessional chairman, the constitutional title of the leader of the Irish Parliamentary party. The reëlection of Mr. PARNELL to the chairmanship of the party was proposed by Mr. Sexton, seconded by Col. NOLAN, and agreed to amid loud applause. Mr. PARNELL thanked the meeting for the fresh proof of their confidence in him, and said that, in response to their unanimous desire, he would continue to discharge the duties of leader.

On the morning of Nov. 26 Mr. GLAD-STONE'S letter was published. It at once caused a split in the ranks of the Irish Parliamentarians, and, at another meeting held by them, Mr. PARNELL was deposed by a considerable majority from the chairmanship. This was done, although those who did it had been reminded by an old Fenian leader

"You have all condoned PARNELL's moral offence; you have had your Leinster Hall meeting, your cables from the American delegates, the meeting of the Parliamentary party, the onthus astic reelection of Parnell as chairman. And now, in an instant and at the bidding of an Englishman, you cat your own words and abandon your own chief. What do you think every self-respecting man in the world will say of you when you have done this thing Why, that you are cowards, that you have no selfreliance, that you do not deserve freedom. I think I am better affected toward Mr. GLADSTONE and the Liberal party than any of you, but PARNELL to of more importance to Ireland than Mr. GLAD-STOKE and the Liberal party, and, for that thau the Irish perty too, all put together. Let him

go, and Home Rule will go with him, for this genera-A similar opinion was expressed by a dis

tinguished Tory: "I cannot conceive why the Irish gave up PARNELL He was everything to them. He was the centre of the whole enterprise, and the idea that things can go on after his overthrow exactly as they on before seems to be absolutely fatuous I cannot think, even now, that GLADSTONE wished PARNELL to go; he must have known to much of the man, and too much of the movement, I think GLADSTONE was forced into the pit. You will remember the meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Sheffield on Nov. 217 That was the beginning. JOHN MORLEY and HARCOURT were there. The Noncomformist parsons got at them, frightened them, and then they came up to London, saw GLADSTONE, frightened ton and persuaded him to the course he took. The parsons frightened them, and they frightened GLADSTONE. Cowardice-sheer cowardice-was

the cause of PARNELL's overthrow." Of course, nobody disputes the sincerity of Mr. GLADSTONE's devotion to the Home Rule cause, or denies that, when he de manded the retirement of Mr. PARNELL, he acted for what he believed to be the best interests of the Liberal party and of Ireland. The event, however, was to show that his belief was not well founded.

PARNELL has long been in his grave, and for many years the blight of discord. which did not stop with the original twofold division into Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites, has cursed with impotence the Irish party. The curse has now been lifted, and the closing year of the nineteenth century has brought the dawn of a new hope to Ireland.

"Responsibility" and Mæcenas.

It appears that not a few of our friends would like to know the real name of "Responsibility." This is the gentleman who was so desirous that some poet should embody in beautiful verse a truer philoso phy of work than is presented in Mr. MARK-HAM's "The Man with the Hoe," that he offered out of his own pocket prizes amounting to seven hundred dollars, which the committee's award.

The curiosity is natural, but we have not at the present time "Responsibility's" permission to gratify it.

In our opinion far more interesting than anything in the actual poetical output of the competition is the circumstance that curred to a distinguished citizen busy with large affairs and somewhat remote from the ordinary fields of literary or ethical effort. Competitions have been started before this, and prizes have been offered generously for the encouragement of peetry why you should be exempted from the great public recall no instance where the purpose was so absolutely disinterested. "Responsibility's" persistent self-effacement, except as the original propounder of the idea and the ultimate disburser of the cash, attest the singleness of his motive.

One enthusiastic correspondent, apparently a poet with expectations or hopes, is particularly anxious for "a clue to the identity of this new MECENAS." The implied comparison is unjust to "Responsibility." Whatever may be said of CAIUS CILNIUS MECENAS'S services to literature through his bounty to poets and poetasters, the fact remains that he managed to secure for himself a large return for his expended sestertii in the way of self-advertisement and gratified personal vanity. There is no pseudonym to conceal the source of his benefactions.

Troubles of Philadelphia.

The alacrity which Philadelphia continues to display in keeping away from the conraise the guarantee fund of \$10 hers, grows comic. Through much dust of associations and executive committees Irish people and the cause of Home Rule. He has and sub-executive committees, this fact piloted Home Rule nearly into its haven. Would the is visible: collections are slow. There was an anxious meeting in the Mayor's office last week, and one enthusiast prowhile yet the ship had to be threaded through the posed that all present should subscribe, but crowded sea and the Mersey because they heard on there was a general agreement that it would he better to allow those who were absent to subscribe. Not a man stepped up and signed the roll. Finally, another enthusiast, venturing on a forlorn hope, offered to give \$500 toward the fund if everybody else

> "There was silence deep as death. And the boldest held his breath.

Nobody seconded the reckless offer. Nobody's pocketbook bled. The fund remained in the clouds, a distant hope and nothing of a reality.

Mayor ASHBRIDGE, an energetic soul, has a plan and an association for raising the money. The trouble is that the town is full of committees. All the time there is is too short for them to confer in, but at the magic word "subscribe," the committeemer. flee wildly away. Monday there will be another conference of committees, but will Monday change the sad fact that while the subscription book is open to the public, the public is closed to the subscription book? As admirers of Philadelphia, and eager to see her reputation unimpaired, we ask if, after all, she did not undertake the convention in a moment of excitement which she regrets in her calmer hours. We can think of no other explanation of her present chilliness toward the funds. But surely she doesn't wish to be regarded as having made a gold-brick promise to the Republican National Committee. should explain that, upon reflection, she is convinced that she would be more comfortable without the convention, and that the convention would be much more comfortable in New York.

The Hon. JOHN JACOB LENTZ of Ohio and the House of Representatives has been barn storming on the New England circuit. His

part begins thus: "The only reason that I can give for my invitation o speak to you to-day is that some one was needed to apologize for Obio."

in Congress can be accepted. It is inexcus

The Bryan Birthday Anniversary Club of Chattanooga will celebrate its hero's birthday, March 19, and he will be present. As he is both the JEFFERSON and JACKSON of the

No apology for the occurrence of Mr. LENTZ

present Democrats, his birthday deserves due onor from them. Doubtless he would be glad to make a birthday speech every day in the year. Jackson Day should be wiped from the calendar and Bryan Day be substituted. The American Anti-Imperialist League has been sighted again. It reports that it has an "effective organization" in thirty-eight

States, Oklahoma and the District of Columbia. and declares its intention of "making itself felt" in close Congress districts next fall. The effective organization usually consists of a few honorary Vice-Presidents or the branch Leagues are composed entirely of officers. The League will make itself feit in the Congress elections just about as much as a shaving | the war. makes itself felt in the Atlantic Ocean.

AFRICA.

While there is no authoritative announcement that Gen. Buller is engaged in a third effort to pierce the Boer line investing Ladysmith, there is every probability that some movement looking to that end is in progress. The activity reported among the Boers and Gen. Joubert's ovements are sufficient indication that they have been preparing for some supreme effort of resistance against attack they saw impending. What plan of attack Gen. Buller is executing or is about to carry out remains to be seen, but whatever it is the British public must be prepared for a heavy bill of costs, for during the weeks of preparation they have had it is understood that the Boers have seamed every ridge and hill with intrenchments looking toward and from Ladysmith. Having failed in both frontal and flanking movements the probability on this occasion is that Gen. Buller will concentrate his efforts on a narrow front with strong flanking protection in order to drive through like a wedge on the line he has determined on as the most favorable for the purpose. That he will have to make sacrifices goes without saying, for in the words of old Marshal Pelissier, when the list of the French losses at the storming of the Maiakhoff was presented to him, omelettes cannot be made without breaking eggs. But there is so much at stake beyond the mere question of relieving Ladysmith that hesita-

Success or defeat in the present effort is go ing to give their quietus, or vitality, to many questions now slumbering or in abeyance not only in South Africa but in other parts of the world as well. Gen. Buller is therefore bound to succeed if success is attainable. The question is whether the relief alone of Ladysmith will be anything more than a moral defeat for the Boers, and whether in the end it may not be an advantage to them to have the besieging forces released for other and more important work elsewhere. The British have apparently begun using Zulu territory to the east of the Buffalo River for operations against the Boer left, and if they are in any force the movement is a serious enace to the Boer line of retreat from Natal by way of Lang's Nek. The Boers have, however, proved themselves so resourceful and confident that if they do not at once retire from he has now paid over to THE SUN for Ladysmith it is because they feel themdistribution to the winners according to selves capable of holding out against all the odds and manœuvres of the British Generals. Their greatest danger is that one of the Drakensberg passes may fall into the hands of the British; in that case the sooner they are out of Natal the better for the safety of Pretoria.

The other danger point is Norvals Pont.

There is now the possibility that the united

tion on that score is now out of the question.

forces of Gens. Gatacre and Kelly-Kenny the idea of instituting it should have oc- and Col. Brabant may succeed in ousting the Boers from Stormberg and pushing them back across the Orange River at Aliwal North and Bethulle. So long as the Boers can hold Gen. French south of the Orange River the position would not be so bad, but if, as there is reason to believe, there will be, some movement should be made from and the stimulation of thought, but we the Modder River or some of the stations between it and the Orange River into the Free State, the Free State forces would have to retreat without delay to the north, fortunate if their line of retreat were not cut off. It is only the want of a sufficient mounted force and transport that has prevented this movement being made before now by the British. The difficulty of the British Government is not so much men as riounts and transport animals, and the fact that owing to the waste that has been going on since the war began the new arrivals do but little more than fill the gaps caused by hardship and disease. Some two thousand horses for the cavalry and artillery are now on their way from India, taken from the native and British regiments in that country, but the most of them will be required to make up for the losses already incurred. It is the utter want of preparedness and the underestimate, acknowledged by the Britrecord that M.ECFNAS ever employed a ish War Office and Government of the Boer determination and capacity to fight, that is responsible for the present situation, in addition to the blunders of the Generals in command; and the apologies for the past and promises for the future now being made by the British Government in Parliament do but bring their in capacity to grasp the situation into stronger retribution box when it is proposed to try and hef. The whole course of affairs is along the same lines that they took in the war against consideration of the promise of which the 'Russia in the Crimea, and the same panic and Republican National Convention was to be extravagant proposals, except the recruiting of a foreign legion, are now made to a helpless

"Man With the Hoe" the Result of French Wars.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A frank state. Man With the Hoe," by Edwin Markham, may be of interest to you.

On first reading this poem it did not wholly an peal to me simply as poetry, and there seemed to be an underlying injustice and error in its sociology its political economy and its religion. Probably had THE SUN not directed attention to it so continually it would have been dimly remembered in this light for a time and then forgotten, supposing that the author wrote no more.

In the light of repeated readings, however, the poem has much grown in my estimation. It bears rereading and the most searching analysis. It is a grand poem. The replies which appeared in the Sunday Sun have some merit, but cannot afford to appear in company with Mr. Edwin Markham's composition. They only crouch at the feet of the Mas ter. Moreover, simply as posms, the consensus of ter. Moreover, simply as posms, the consensus of opinion will, I think, assign these efforts exactly the reverse position, third, second, first, to that given in the award of your judges. That is to say, the further from the subject they get the better they are! I am one of those who now believe Mr. Markham handled his subject correctly. His effort is a finished one, and just as there is and can be but one "Elegy in a Country Clurrayard" so there can be but one "Man With the Hoe." Mr. Markham does not deal with "Man With the Hoe." Mr. Markham does not be a with the evolution of the ox, as some of his critics seem to think, but with the product of the French wars and the states man-hip—the "masters. lords and muers" who brought them about.

Incidentally the war in the Transvaal, admittedly brought about in the most simister manner, is making more men with the hoe.

Of course, I do not mean to imply that such wars are true able to any one man. Their causes are complete but the

Of course, I do not mean to haply that such wars are true able to any one man. Their causes are complex, but in large part due to greed. Though selfish, greed may be the ox-br-ther's own cub, he may nevertheless come to hap it, unselfish statesmanship lacking. In 'The Man With the Hoe' this sentiment is nocitically expressed.

New Haves, Conn. Feb. 1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The explosive

note of your correspondent who denounces the expression of the wish "that the price of crepe may rise in London" betrays a kind heart. The gentle man is a man of far more temperate refinement than the "tresponsible, passionate rowdy, unfortunately holding a position of trust and honor in the Gov-With your mild correspondent all sympathetic persons will reiterate "Ught It gives sympathetic persons will reiterate "Ugh! It gives one a shudder to realize that one is an inhabitant of the same planet as such a heardish, inhuman monster who could voice such a heartiess wish."

But while we must remain upon the planet together, would it not be well to remember that the sufferings of widows and orphans are a sad incident of war, and that if we believe the struggle a just one we must desire the death of those who right on the wrong side? The rhe-coric of the speaker may have been anadvised, but his louic was unexceptionally, Let us the actor war or heave. wrong subsect anadvised, but his logic was unexceptionally, been unadvised, but his logic was unexceptionally. Let us then stop war or keep all but bachelors at Ratio.

Smagg ed Gans. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Lord Salisbur

was right in believing that "guns were introduced into the Transvaal in boilers, and munitions of war in plane cases." They were so introduced, but it was by Dr. James A. Welff, who was one of the secret betrayers of the Jameson Raid Comsecret betrayers of the Jameson Raid Com-mittee. I remember distinctly Dr. Wolff's state-ment to that effect, which I heard him make to the Aldine Club. Fifth avenue and Nine-teenth street, a couple of months ago. He there beasted that at the time of that raid he sided in introducing into Johannesburg Maxim sums in casks of kerosne, and guapowder is dien under coke in freight cars. These were intended, however, for the destruction of the South African Republic, Lord Salisbury should have added this to his state-ment in Parliament tyesterday. ment in Parliament yesterday. GEORGE W. VAN SIGLEN.

The Peace Meeting.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir I attended, as an advocate of peace, the reputed seace meeting last night to recommend arbitration to the two beiliger. ents in South Africa, and to my surprise and disgust, I found it a complete Boer scheme. It would in deed, be wonderful, if such a meeting has any other influence than to produce contempt among Englishmen and encouragement to the Boers to continue

MEW YORK, Feb. 2.

VINDICATOR.

GENERAL SITUATION IN SOUTH RELIGIOUS DEVICES AND EXPERI-MENTS.

Interesting Innovations and Suggestions for the Spread of Religion

From the Church Economist. Efforts have been started in Brooklyn to give the Gospel message, in some direct form, to every a full in the borough during 1900. The head of the house to-house canvass is the Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon of Ranson Place Bapust Church. "People won's come to meetings," he said. "We must therefore take the meetings to them. A canvasser will not call upon a family to invite members of it to attend ne meeting, although that invitation may be given incidentally, but to preach a sermon, so to say. Perhaps the preaching place may be the front doorstep, the reception room, the hallway-no matter where, the unsaved will be face to face with the evangelist, wherever the meeting occurs, and there

the message will be delivered." Every religious body in Philadelphia, Jews and Roman Catholics included, is to devote Washington's Birthday to a canvass of all the people resident iff that city. The work is to be completed in one day, by volunteer canvassers. The questions to be asked are whether the family attends religious services or not. If yes, where; if no, what are the preferences; how many children, if any, and de they, or do they not, attend any religious school? The estimated cost of the canvass is \$1.500, and in charge of it is a county Sunday school association, of which Mr. John Wanamaker is President. It is owever, supported by all churches, and by all workers in them.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, New York, finds its income not sufficient to maintain its services as its vestry think they should be maintained. So the vestry issue an appeal to the congre gation, in which the statement is made that the vestry think "ever, church is entitled to at least & per cent. of its members' respective expenditure for all purposes." The statement is signed by the vestry

At the Central Presbyterian Church, New York, four preaching services are now held each Sunday. The usual 11 o'clock morning service and the 8 o'clock evening service are continued but to then is added an early morning prayer meeting with a short address at 8 o'clock and a vesper service at 4:30 in the afternoon. In the Roman Catholic Church the practice is to hold almost continuous masses on Sunday. In some instances, we believe as many as eight are celebrated each Sunday. This offers everyone a chance to attend public worship on Sunday. As a matter of fact the aggregate attendance on Roman Catholic Churches in most cities would exceed the capacity of the churches if only two services were held. It is also the practice in the Roman Catholic Church to rent pews for masses at

A few weeks ago the trustees of the Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn, voted to carry out the plin proposed by their pastor in erecting a roof auditorium, to correspond to the roof gardens of so many places of amusement. To provide this roof garden the church is to expend \$150,000. The luil ling is to be 100 by 150, and the tower will be about 125 feet high. The roof auditorium will be 5 feet from the ground, and four large elevators will run from the sidewalk to the roof. The four sides of the roof auditorium will be open and provided with shutters or blinds for shelter in case of a driving rain that might happen to come up during !

We have somewhat lest confidence in the permaent value of the cute, taining Sunday evening service. It has been tried pretty thoroughly these past ew years, and has not brought the spiritual results ted by its friends. Dr. Babcock, in succeeding Dr. Van Dyke at the Brick Church, has announced his policy to be to put his own best strength on the second service, on the ground that the morning service can, as it were, take care of itself.

It is difficult for one seated in an a : dience to realize the combined effect of a number of little noises as they reach the pulpit. Somehow if one person makes a certain small noise others seem impelled by some mysterious force to do the same thing. We have all observed how a yawn travels from one to another around a circle, and it is really amusing to notice how a wave of coughing sweeps over a congregation if one unlucky mem'er starts it. At the services in Kansas City, ust before his break-down, Mr. Moody was disturbed by the rustling of programmes, and he adopted a very or, inal and ingenious way to stop the noise. He asked every one in the hall who had a programme to hold it aloft. Of course all the peo ple did so. "Now put them down on the seat and sit on them" was Mr. Moody's next command too, was obeyed and thenceforth quiet reigned.

It may not be generally known that the present Comptroller of New York city, Mr. Bird S. Coler, though elected on the Tammany ticket, is an an active and much honored member of the Methodist Church, and quite prominent in Sunday school

Dr. Buckley at the Moody memorial meeting at Carnegie Hall said a friend and great admirer of Moody was wont, in a spirit of fun, to point him out to fellow travellers in a railroad car or gathering as some famous railroad king or political celebrity, and always with entire success. The great evangelist filled the type of the master of men. The strong, bearded face, round head, thick neck, big burly body, short fat hands and feet, all went with the type of the gladiator of trade or politics, who neither asked nor gave quarter, and who, as Tennyson expressed it, "made by force his merit known." If you want a church leader of the modern type, man who will organize, discipline and command great church under difficult conditions, look first of all at his hand. Do the fingers look as though the tips had been cut off in a mowing machine? Are they so thick as to crowd clumsily upon one another, red of color and warm to the touch? There's energy, system, ambition. The man is one of the sort who "get there," to use the common but very expressive phrase.

BROUGHTONISM

Condemned by Business Men as Well as by Stenographers.

To the Entrop of The Sun-Sin: - You cannot fail o have noted the wanton words of Evangelist Broughton respecting the army of young women employed as stenographers and office assistants, which is such a prominent feature of New York busie ness life. I have been a lover of stenography since 1856, a date long antecedent to the employment of young women as shorthand amanuenses. My experience extends through the entire period of the employment of women in this avenue. During the last seventeen years I have been an employer of such labor in New York city, and in constant contact with the stenographic world.

In all my experience I have never met a female stenographer w o was not a lady, and I have never seen one act, public or private, that was not indicative of a modest and moral character. Nor have I witnessed on the part of business men and the multitude who frequent office buildings any but the most respectful treatment of the young women

There is no question but that Broughton has slandered not only an eminently worthy band of selfrespecting, self-supporting women, but the entire fraternity of business men who, as employers, rece ve such faithful and acceptable service at their

hands. Does not Mr. Broughton show lack of sense in as suming that even an immoral man would carry his tamoralities into his business office?

This "evan relist" is evidently out of touch with us modern business life; he is ignorant, and by the rate display of his ignorance a d his criminally reckless insults to the people of this community he as made himself person ; non grata, and he ought to quickly subside from the public view NEW YORK, Feb. 1. GEORGE W. DITHRIDGE.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While individe nals of the Rev. (?) Broughton's type are allowed by the religious bodies which they represent to go bout unmuzzled there will continue to be an increasing lack of interest in religious matters and practices. The different denominations should take spee ty measures for the extinction of the Broughton

NEW YORK, Peb. 3. Dr. Hale Succeeded by the Rev. S. A. Ellote

From the Boston Daily Advertiser. Rev. S. A. Eliot, son of President Eliot of Harvard, vas Tuesday elected pastor of the South Congregational Church. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, who has been pastor of the church for forty-four years, had put the matter in such a way that nothing remained but to accept his resignation and select his succept cessor. Mr. Eliot's last pastorate was with the Piret Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, where he passed five

Fancy Price for a Fast Automobile

From the Trotter and Pacer. An automobile that cost when new \$3,000, sold so auction recently in Paris for \$13,200, after making a fast record. It appears that developed speed is valuable in machines as well as in horses.